

## EXTIRPATED WEST INDIAN BIRDS.

BY AUSTIN H. CLARK.

IN THE present paper I have brought together all the evidence as to the existence in former years of birds not known at the present day on the islands of Barbados, St. Vincent, the Grenadines, and Grenada (with the exception of the members of the family Psittacidae), and have given them what appears to me to be (in the light of my recent studies in West Indian ornithology) their proper standing.

Some of the birds represent (as the Purple Gallinule, *Ionornis martinica*) merely locally extirpated colonies of wide ranging species, while others (as *Cinlocerthia*) were probably subspecifically or even specifically distinct from those on the neighboring islands.

? *Podilymbus podiceps* (Linn.).

## PIED-BILLED GREBE.

*The Two-Penny Chick* HUGHES, Nat. Hist. Barbados, p. 71 (1750).

*Podiceps dominicus*, The Two-Penny Chick SCHOMB., Hist. Barbados, p. 682 (1848). — FEILDEN, Ibis, 1889, p. 503; W. I. Bull., III, p. 352 [1902].

Hughes mentions a Grebe "of the Bigness and much the Colour of the *American Quail*" as occurring in Barbados in his day. Schomburgk also in his list includes a Grebe under the name of *P. dominicus*. *P. dominicus* has never been found in the Lesser Antilles, but *Podilymbus podiceps* is a breeding resident in many, if not most of the islands, and there is a specimen in the British Museum from Barbados. It is not known there at the present time. The name "Two-Penny Chick," formerly applied to the Grebe, is still used on the island, but now refers entirely to the Sora (*Porzana carolina*).

Col. Feilden has followed Schomburgk in giving the Grebe as *P. dominicus*; but for the reasons given above I prefer to regard it as *Podilymbus podiceps*.

**Buteo (? antillarum Clark).**

## WEST INDIAN BUZZARD.

*Bussard* LIGON, Hist Barbados, p. 60 (1673)

*Milan* LIGON, Hist. Barbades, p. 101 (1674).

*Buteo borealis* SCHOMB., Hist. Barbados, p. 681 (1848).

Ligon says: "The birds of this place [Barbados] (setting two aside) are hardly worth the pains of describing, yet, in order, as I did the beasts, I will set them down. The biggest is a direct Bussard, but somewhat less than our Grey Bussard [*B. buteo*] in England, somewhat swifter of wing; and the only good they do is sometimes to kill the rats."

Schomburgk gives "*B. borealis*" as a resident on Barbados. Probably he refers to this species or a closely related form (as it is abundant on the neighboring islands of St. Vincent, Grenada, and Dominica) for *B. borealis* does not occur in the Lesser Antilles, except, perhaps, on St. Kitts.

Hughes (1750) does not mention any hawk.

At the time Ligon wrote the greater part of Barbados was still clothed in natural forest, and it is very probable that this hawk was then resident.

NOTE.—*Falco columbarius* is given by Schomburgk as a resident on Barbados (Hist. Barbados, p. 681, 1848). Col. Feilden (Ibis, 1889, p. 489; W. I. Bull., III, 342, [1902]) believes him to be in error, and he is not confirmed by other authors. However, there is a possibility that it did breed there in his time, as it is said to be a permanent resident on the island of Dominica, and occurs in all these islands as a fall and winter visitor.

**Ionornis martinica (Linn.).**

## PURPLE GALLINULE.

*Blue-Pated Coot* HUGHES, Nat. Hist. Barbados, p. 71 (1750).

*Ionornis martinica* FEILDEN, Ibis, 1889, p. 499; W. I. Bull., III, p. 349 [1902].

I have no hesitation in referring Hughes "Blue-Pated Coot" to this species. He says, "They (Coots or Moor-Hens) are distinguished into Three Kinds; The White- [*Fulica americana*], the Red- [*Gallinula galeata*], and the Blue-Pated." They were apparently common in Barbados in his day.

At the present time it is only accidental on Barbados, although common on Dominica. St. Lucia, St. Vincent, the Grenadines, and Grenada.

NOTE.—*Gallinula galeata* and *Fulica americana* (probably referable to *F. caribæa* Ridgw.) are both now exceedingly rare on Barbados, although they were formerly abundant. Col. Feilden obtained a nest of the former in July, 1888, and found a few of the latter in Græme Hall Swamp in the same year. If not already gone, their extirpation is only a matter of a few years. I found no examples of either.

### *Columba squamosa* Bonn.

RAMIER.

? *Pigeons* SLOANE, Nat. Hist. Jamaica, I, p. 34 (1707).

*The Wild Wood Pigeon* HUGHES, Nat. Hist. Barbados, p. 76 (1750).

Sir Hans Sloane writes, speaking of Barbados, that "Turner (ap. Purchas. p. 1265) found Hogs, Pigeons, and Parrots there."

Hughes says of "The Wild Wood Pigeon": "This is about the Bigness of an House Pigeon. The Head is of a blackish Colour; and from the under Bill to the Breast, of a light Mouse-colour; from thence to the Belly and the under Part of the Tail, of an Ash-colour; the upper Side of the Neck, Back, and Wings, of a dark Ash-colour, growing lighter toward the Extremities of the Wings.

"These come hither, tho' in no great Numbers, about the latter End of July or August, always alighting upon Trees, and feeding upon the Berries of them."

Although the coloration is rather inexact, Hughes probably refers to this pigeon, as the size is pretty close, and he mentions

its exclusively arboreal habits. *Columba squamosa*, although abundant on the neighboring islands, does not now visit Barbados, possibly because of the cutting down of the forests.

### *Geotrygon montana* (Linn.).

#### PERDRIX.

This bird appears to be now extirpated from St. Vincent, possibly as a result of the importation of the mongoose. I am told that it has disappeared from St. Kitts, and is becoming rare on other islands, more especially on Grenada.

### *Strix* (? *nigrescens* Lawr.).

#### OWL.

*Strix flammea* SCHOMB., Hist. Barbados, p. 681 (1848).

Schomburgk includes "*S. flammea*" in his list of the birds of Barbados. No other author mentions any owl, but possibly some form of this genus occurred when the island was largely under forest. It may have been *S. nigrescens*, at the present time a common resident on Dominica, St. Vincent, Bequia (Grenadines), and Grenada.

NOTE.—*Colinus virginianus* (Linn.) is included by Schomburgk in his list of the birds of Barbados. There appears to be no evidence that this bird ever lived there, although it is resident on several of the more northern islands. Possibly he came into the possession of a stray specimen captured in the island, as he obtained in this way a specimen of the Ruff (*Pavoncella pugnax*). A Quail was shot in Barbados in September, 1886, and another seen in September, 1887.

### *Cinclocerthia* sp.

#### QUAKING THRUSH.

*Thrush* LIGON, Hist. Barbados, p. 60 (1673).

*Grive* LIGON, Hist. Barbades, p. 101 (1674).

*Quaking Thrush* HUGHES, Nat. Hist. Barbados, p. 72 (1750).

*Turdus jamaicensis* (!) SCHOMB., Hist. Barbados, p. 681 (1848).

Ligon says: "The next is a bird like a Thrush, of a melancholy look, her feathers never smooth, but always ruffled, as if she were mewing, her head down, her shoulders up, as if her neck were broke. This bird has for three or four notes, the loudest and sweetest that I ever heard; if she had variety, certainly no bird would go by her; she looks always as if she were sick or melancholy."

Hughes writes: "We have Two species of Thrush in this Island." One "is a solitary Bird, and is known by the name of the *Quaking Thrush*."

Schomburgk gives "*Turdus jamaicensis*" in his list, calling it the "Quaking Thrush."

The members of the genus *Cinlocerthia* all have a peculiar habit of occasionally shivering or shaking, as if afflicted with ague, which has given them the name of "Trembleur" in all the islands where they are found at the present time. This habit is not shared by any other Lesser Antillean genus, so we appear to be justified in referring the "Thrushes" of the authors mentioned to *Cinlocerthia*. I interpret Ligon's statement that the bird always appears "sick or melancholy" to have reference to this peculiarity also, a comparison between the shivering of the bird and the shaking of a person ill with a tropical fever.

At the present time, *Cinlocerthia* occurs on all the islands from Guadeloupe south to St. Vincent, as well as on some of the more northern Lesser Antilles. It was probably driven from Barbados by the deforestation of that island.

### *Allenia* (? *albiventris* Lawr.).

#### "WREN."

*Wren* LIGON, Hist. Barbados, p. 60 (1673). HUGHES, Nat. Hist. Barbados, p. 73 (1750).

*Roytelet* LIGON, Hist. Barbades, p. 101 (1674).

Ligon says: "Another there is, not unlike a Wren, but big as a Thrush; and this is as merry and jolly as the other [*Cinlocerthia*] is sad; and as she sits on a stick, jets, and lifts up her train [tail], looking with so earnest and merry a countenance, as if she would

invite you to come to her, and will sit till you come very near. This bird I never heard sing."

Hughes writes: "The Wren. This, excepting its Note and Bill, differs very little from the Thrush, as to its Plumage and Bigness. Its Bill is somewhat more sharp pointed and longer than that of the Thrush.

"It is most commonly to be seen in the Wood near Hackleton's Clift, and feeds chiefly upon Oranges and such ripe Fruit, as well as upon Lizards."

I believe that there can be no doubt that these descriptions refer to an *Allenia*. The habit of keeping the tail in the air like a wren is very characteristic, and in its actions it is lively and restless. If it inhabited Barbados, one would expect it to be found in the rugged country about Hackleton's Cliff and in the Scotland District, and not in the level portions of the island, as it is a bird of the hills.

*A. albiventris* (Lawr.), the only species of the genus, occurs from St. Eustatius to St. Vincent, and also on Grenada.

### Margarops sp.

"COUNSELLOR."

*Counsellor* LIGON, Hist. Barbados, p. 60 (1673).

*Counsellor* LIGON, Hist. Barbades, p. 102 (1674).

*Thrush* HUGHES, Nat. Hist. Barbados, p. 72 (1750).

*Turdus mustelinus* (!) SCHOMB., Hist. Barbados, p. 681 (1848).

Ligon writes: "The next is of the colour of a Fieldfare [*Turdus pilaris*], but the head seems too big for her body, and for that reason they call her Counsellor; her flying is extremely wanton; and for her tune, 'tis such as I have not heard any like her, not for the sweetness."

According to Hughes: "We have two Species of Thrush in this Island; the one much resembling in her note the English Thrush.

"As soon as the Day appears, she mounts up like a Lark into the Air, almost out of Sight."

Of the two "Thrushes" included by Schomburgk in his list, "*Turdus jamaicensis*" must refer to a plain colored bird without

any distinctive markings; as he also gives it the name of "Quaking Thrush," we refer it to *Cinclocerthia*; the other, "*T. mustelinus*," is probably the second species mentioned by Ligon and Hughes; there is, however, a possibility that he refers to *Allenia* under this name.

I have referred these "Thrushes" to *Margarops* and not to *Cinchlerminia*, as the former genus is more widely distributed, its species more abundant where they occur, and not essentially birds of the deep woods (as are the species of *Cinchlerminia*), and the habits as given agree better with those of *Margarops*. Moreover, a male of *M. fuscatus densirostris* (a straggler) was obtained on Barbados on March 2, 1889.

### *Cœreba atrata* Lawr.

Normal Form = *saccharina* Lawr.

#### MOLASSES BIRD.

The Yellow-breasted Honey Creeper appears to have become extinct on St. Vincent. I could find no trace of it. Ober obtained two specimens in 1878, but Lister, writing in 1880, does not mention it. It seems to be now wholly replaced by the black form (*atrata* Lawr.).

### *Cœreba wellsi* Cory.

Normal Form.

#### SUCRIER.

Ober says (1878) that "this bird is not found in great numbers (on Grenada), as in some of the northern islands (? northern Lesser Antilles, or Grenadines); indeed I have seen it but twice on the mangrove flats of Point Saline." This is inserted under the heading "*C. atrata*," but must refer to this bird, as the black form is abundant all over Grenada. Wells says it is not found at all in Grenada.

In May, 1904, while at St. George's, Grenada, Mr. Charles



Vernet very kindly presented me with a specimen of this bird, taken by himself at Point Saline; it was the only one he ever saw.

It is abundant on all the Grenadines.

Besides these forms, I failed to find the following on St. Vincent, although I explored almost the whole island very carefully. Possibly they still exist in limited numbers in certain remote localities.

*Catharopeza bishopi* (Lawr.).

*Cinclocerthia ruficauda tenebrosa* Ridgw.

*Cinchlerminia sanctæ-luciæ* (Scl.).

*Allenia albiventris* (Lawr.), which became a common resident on Union Island and Carriacou, Grenadines, after the great hurricane at St. Vincent in 1898, has now entirely disappeared from those islands.

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## THE LESSER ANTILLEAN MACAWS.

BY AUSTIN H. CLARK.

WE FIND mentioned by the earlier writers who dealt with West Indian ornithology, a number of birds which are not known to inhabit the islands at the present day, and which have been extinct for many years. In this paper I shall bring together all the evidence existing as to the presence of Macaws in the Lesser Antilles, in the islands of Guadeloupe, Dominica, and Martinique.

These three islands collectively show affinities to the Greater Antilles and to South America, at the same time having genera and species peculiar to themselves. For instance, a species of *Mimocichla* (Dominica) and a species of *Melanerpes* (Guadeloupe), together with the fact that *Guara alba* is a breeding resident on Dominica, appear to show a Greater Antillean relationship; *Dendroica rufigula* (Martinique), *Stenopsis cayenensis* (Martinique), *Ceryle stictipennis* (Guadeloupe and Dominica), and *Rup-*